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Inside Wallops

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Columbia Recovery in Texas Nears Completion

As the Central Texas search for material from the Space Shuttle Columbia moves westward, the East Texas search nears completion.

Over 70,000 items, weighing more than 78,000 pounds, about 37 percent of the Shuttle, by weight, have been delivered to the Kennedy Space Center for use in the mishap investigation.

The painstaking search of the main 2400 square mile search corridor was executed through the combined efforts of NASA, FEMA, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. and Texas Forest Services. Individuals from these organizations, aided by local authorities and landowners, have worked long hours under arduous conditions over difficult terrain, to recover Columbia debris.

"The response to the Columbia tragedy has been simply overwhelming. Private citizens, local, state and federal agencies have worked so hard to help us get to this point," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. "NASA cannot thank the communities and our government partners enough for what they have done to aid the accident investigation. We have retrieved a large percentage of Columbia, and that will go a long way toward helping solve the puzzle of what happened February 1st. All the participants will forever be a part of the NASA family, and we will try to honor them by returning to flight safely, and as soon as possible," Administrator O'Keefe said.



NASA Photo

As area searches are completed, NASA and FEMA will work with supporting agencies to close the four Incident Command Posts that served as operational bases, and the Mobilization and Staging Area that supported personnel in the camps.

The U.S. and Texas Forest Services managed the Incident Command Posts and conducted

search operations. They are expected to close the camp at Palestine around April 23, followed by Hemphill around April 25, Nacogdoches around May 2, and Corsicana around May 5. The Longview staging area is expected to close around May 8.

"We are in the final stages of our ground searches and are beginning to close the camps that housed more than 14,000 people since mid-February," said Mark Stanford, Texas Forest Service Incident Commander. "The camp staffs and communities have been outstanding and treated our search crews as honored guests. Although we're pleased to have ground search operations almost finished, our crews will miss the great East Texas hospitality," he said.

"Working with more than 100 federal, state and local agencies, and volunteer groups that came together for one purpose, we will forever be proud of the involvement FEMA had in the Columbia operation," said Federal Coordinating Office Scott Wells. "This operation has been a model of cooperation and has set a high standard for future Department of Homeland Security cooperative endeavors," he said.

A Columbia Recovery Office (CRO) is being established at Johnson Space Center to assume responsibility for recovery management and community liaison. The Disaster Field Office in Lufkin, Texas, the central planning and command center for the search, is expected to close in early May.

NASA plans to maintain a relationship with the people of the East Texas communities affected by the Columbia mishap through community outreach and education programs.

Centennial of Flight Milestone

64 years ago on April 20, 1939, the first free flight tunnel is operational at Langley.

Wallops Shorts.....

In the news

Aviation Week

"Industry Outlook – Balloon Fest"

Anchorage Daily News

Opinion Column

"Lost Rocket Looks Bad – UAF Operation Should Have Informed Public Sooner of Mishap"

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M. on April 17. The main scientific objective of the mission was to obtain the first far ultraviolet survey spectra of Mercury. The flight was nominal, however, an apparent high voltage problem may result in a mission failure. Dr. Alan Stern, Southwest Research Institute, was the principal investigator. Jay Scott, NSROC, was the payload manager.

On the Road

John Brinton, NASA Sounding Rocket Program Office, was a judge for the Worcester County Tech Fest held at Snow Hill Middle School on April 15.

Keith Koehler and Ed Parrott, NASA Public Affairs Office, participated in the Earth Day event at the Salisbury Zoo on April 19.

Administrative Professionals Week is April 21 - 25



Thanks to the Wallops Team!

Six Weeks Left to Complete Core Financial Web Based Training

If you have been mapped to a Core Financial role, by now you should be registered for your instructor-led training (ILT), taking your RWD SAP Navigational course, and taking your web-based training (WBT).

The Core Financial system will go live June 23, 2003 at GSFC.

Email Scams

HQ Office of Security and Safeguards

Maybe you received one or you know someone who did; an e-mail from a foreign country offering an opportunity to participate in a money making scheme. Please do not respond. This is a scam designed to separate you from your money.

Here's how it works. Email originating from a foreign nation is sent to addresses taken from an available public source. The writer promises rich rewards for helping a government, bank, or family out of an embarrassing situation or legal problem.

Typically, the pitch includes mention of millions of dollars, with the promise that you will be permitted to keep a percentage of the money if you help.

Should you participate in this scam, it's guaranteed that something will go wrong requiring more of your money to get things back on track.

The con artist may say that the necessary paperwork will be delayed or that officials need to be bribed. The amount they request may seem small in light of the windfall you are promised. If you pay, you will wait for the transfer of the reward money and wait and wait. All you will get in return are more excuses about why the money is being held up and assurances that everything can be straightened out, if you send more cash to help the process along. Once you start making threats, you will never hear from the writer again. As for the money you paid, it's gone forever.

Do people fall for this scam? Unfortunately, the answer is yes. A 1997 report from the Financial Crimes Division of the U.S. Secret Service confirmed losses of over \$100 million in the United States during the previous 15 months.

This is not a new scam. Early versions can be traced back to the 1920's, when it was referred to as "The Spanish Prisoner" con, and there are numerous variations of this scheme.

For instance, if you advertise an automobile or another item for sale on the Internet, you may receive offers from foreigners involving some "creative" exchange of funds. These creative funding ideas are designed to take your money.

Unfortunately, as long as your address is publicly available there is nothing a government agency can do to prevent you from receiving these offers. So when you receive one, just hit "DELETE."

Groundbreaking for New Coast Guard Housing



Photo by QM1 Lawrence Beatty, USCG

Craig Purdy, NASA Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects, (4th from right) participated in groundbreaking ceremonies held on April 4 to begin construction of a 28-unit housing complex for Coast Guard members assigned to Group Eastern Shore.

The Coast Guard recently awarded a \$6.6 million contract to Tesoro Corporation of Virginia Beach to construct the 14 housing duplexes. The housing will support Coast Guard families

and members assigned to USCG Group Eastern Shore, USCG Station Chincoteague, USCG Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Chincoteague, and the Electronic Support Detachment (ESD) Chincoteague.

The new houses to be located in a vacant field adjacent to Navy housing at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility will replace 25 deteriorated Coast Guard housing units built there in 1936.

Construction is scheduled to be complete by mid-November.

Inspire the Next Generation



Take Our Children To Work Day -- April 24

Aerobics Club News

The Wallops Aerobics Club will begin a new six-week session starting Monday, April 21. The Ta'i Chi class continues on Thursdays, from 11:30 a.m. to noon in the back of Building F3. Call John Brinton on x1099 for more details.

The following class schedule is being offered:

Monday
Noon - 12:30 p.m. Toning
5 - 6 p.m. Step Aerobics/Toning

Tuesday
Noon - 12:30 p.m. Aerobics

Wednesday
Noon - 12:30 p.m. Toning
5 - 6 p.m. Step Aerobics/Toning

Thursday
11:30 a.m. - Noon Ta'i Chi
Noon - 12:30 p.m. Aerobics

Friday
Noon - 12:30 p.m. Toning
4:40 - 5:40 p.m. Toning

For more information, call Annette Conger on x2596 or Jeanette Smolinski on x1512 or visit the Aerobics Club web page at: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/WAC/>

Old Dominion University Summer Semester

Sampling of Classes:

Environmental Geology, Financial Decision Making, Fundamental of Mechanics, Human Resources Management, Industrial Design, Introduction to Networks and Communication, Linear Electronics, Multi-National Marketing, Principles of Information Technology, Public Relations, Thermal Applications, Structural Steel Design

For more information, call 757-824-0763 or 757-787-5590 or visit: www.odu.edu

Check with your supervisor to see if a particular class qualifies for tuition payment by the Government or your company.

Upper-level courses are designed for students already holding an Associate's Degree or the equivalent. Classes are offered at Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa, Va., and minutes from your work-site at the Cropper Center, just outside the Main Gate.

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